REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 6 and 23, amended the specification and the abstract. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims, specification and abstract are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Accordingly, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims and specification and abstract as amended.

The Examiner has objected to the abstract, stating that it does not adequately describe the invention. In view of the amendments to the abstract, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure as being ambiguous. Applicant has amended the disclosure where indicated and respectfully requests that the disclosure is now not objectionable.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because of the objections to the specification. In view of the amendments to the specification, Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings are no longer objectionable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 and 22-26 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In reply thereto, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 6 and 23. In addition, the Examiner has stated that the use of reference numerals to recite its element is not proper. Applicant respectfully submits that reference numerals in parentheses are used together with the elements and such a procedure is permissible under MPEP §608.01(m) wherein it states:

"Reference characters corresponding to elements recited in the detailed description and the drawings may be used in conjunction with the recitation of the same element or group of elements in the claims. The reference characters, however, should be enclosed within parentheses so as to avoid confusion with other numbers or characters which may appear in the claims. The use of reference characters is to be considered as having no effect on the scope of the claims."

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-20 and 22-26 comply with 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has indicated that the claims contain allowable subject matter and the Examiner will consider allowance upon amendment. In view of the amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now allowable and Applicant accepts these allowed

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Rule 116 Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

KODA & ANDROLIA

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Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on February 26, 2004.

William L. Androlia

Name

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Signature

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